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## **Sen. Kuipers reminds farmers about reopened conservation program**

**LANSING** – The Michigan Department of Agriculture has reopened enrollment in the state’s Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program, which gives farmers in the Lake Macatawa watershed an opportunity to protect water quality and wildlife habitat, Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, announced today.

“Local landowners should be aware of this program available to them,” Kuipers said. “It’s one way the state of Michigan is trying to protect our natural resources.”

The program is a voluntary one that provides incentives for farmers and private landowners to put in place conservation practices. According to the Michigan Department of Agriculture, already the program is responsible for 11,000 acres of wetland restoration practices, 8,200 acres of highly erodible croplands and 1,200 of windbreaks throughout Michigan.

The Lake Macatawa watershed extends into Allegan and Ottawa counties, covering about 110,000 acres.

To begin the enrollment process, people should call the Allegan Conservation District at (269) 673-8965.

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